

Serial No.: 09/955,623
Examiner: Hayes, Michael J.
Art Unit: 3763

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 15, 18 and 23 remain in the application. By this amendment claims 4-6, 9-14, 16-17, 19-22 and 24-51 have been withdrawn.

Election/Restriction Requirement

The patent office submits that the present application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct inventions:

- I. Claims 1-23;
- II. Claim 24;
- III. Claims 25-48;
- IV. Claims 49-50; and
- V. Claim 51.

In response, applicant elects Invention I, claims 1-23 for prosecution on the merits.

Claims 24-51 have been withdrawn at this time as being drawn to the non-elected inventions.

The patent office further submits that the present application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species 1 = Fig. 3

Species 2 = Fig. 5a

Species 3 = Fig. 5b

Species 4 = Fig. 6

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Species 5 = Fig. 8

Species 6 = Fig. 9

Species 7 = Fig. 10

Species 8 = Fig. 11

Species 9 = Fig. 12

Species 10 = Figs. 13a, 13b

Species 11 = Figs. 18a, 18b

Species 12 = Fig. 19

Species 13 = Fig. 20

In response, applicant elects Species 1, Fig. 3 for prosecution on the merits. Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 15, 18 and 23 are readable on Species 1, Fig. 3, and remain in the application.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-3, 7, 8, 15, 18 and 23 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request such allowance.

Claims 4-6, 9-14, 16-17 and 19-22 have been withdrawn at this time as being drawn to the non-elected species. However, applicant respectfully submits that the generic claim, claim 1, is allowable and requests consideration of claims 4-6, 9-14, 16-17 and 19-22 upon allowance of claim 1.

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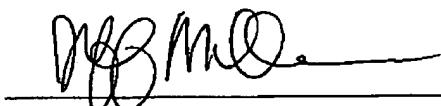
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In view of the amendments and remarks submitted herein, applicant believes that all claims pending in the application are in condition for allowance and respectfully request such allowance. If a telephone conference will expedite prosecution of the application the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
McDermott, Will & Emery

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